Waterloo Sept. 4 – 1843

My very dear friend

Were I not bound here by a most severe cold, I should reach you as soon as this letter will – But my cold was so severe that I did not sit up at all yesterday – Today I have been writing all the morning, tho' I am exceedingly weak – Tomorrow I contemplate starting for N.E., but shall go by easy stages, stopping in Utica one night and in Albany another, and then go to Northampton if Bro. Garrison is there, after which you may look for me in Boston where I want to see the Mass. Board and have a clear understanding of our whereabouts – I thought at our last annual meeting we were distinctly and, clearly on the "come outer" ground – If our resolutions meant any thing they meant this and yet D.L.C. with all this light before him, and more than this, the light of our proceedings from year to year for the last five or six years has been of the same clear character – It is the genius of our enterprise – no communion with any thing that sustains slavery —— and yet D.L.C. tells us "where we are": that we have been shammed into this position, and that "the dogma that an abolitionist cannot, without betraying the bleeding slave, retain a connection with either of the political parties," is "a sham" "hatched" by the New organization – and that our preaching disconnection from the pro-slavery church, is merely a check-mate to this sham of theirs. When my eye first ran over this article I was confirmed in the belief that D.L.C was not what I had considered him, totally unfit for the post he occupies — I consider ~~this~~ the portion of this article "Where we are" to which I have alluded as a heavier calumny against us than even new organization has been guilty of — I have always understood our position as a Society to be "dissolution of the union" with every thing that supported Slavery — Have I been mistaken? I have always preached that doctrine and the hundreds of subscribers I have obtained for the Standard are 'come outers' — They will never bear such doctrines as those put forth by Child — When my eye first rested on this article I presumed it would be the seal to D. L. C.'s dismission from the editorship and that all our abolitionists would be out upon it but more especially the Liberator — I am surprised to see in the last Liberator a copy of the article without one word of condemnation of the obnoxious portions. Either I am blinded or else some others have lost their clear vision — I go to N. E. to ascertain which is the fact — It is a journey that I am illy qualified to undertake with my present feeble health but I am willing to hazard any thing for the cause — And again there will be misunderstanding and misrepresentation of the position of S. S. Foster and myself at the National Convention in Buffalo as also of the position of the convention towards us and I want all to be clear — I presume you have recd mine by S. J. May informing you of my decision to attend that Convention —

New organizationists put forth their devices there but notwithstanding the mass of the party has been more or less perverted and prejudiced by the new organizers through N.E. and N.Y. presses they acted a most manly and noble part — The western delegates are true old organizationists, as also are the mass of New Yorkers. A resolution condemning non-voters was indignantly rejected by the convention and repudiated as foul — They endorsed woman's speaking and took the highest ground against all constitutional requisitions requiring a return of fugitives or a quelling of the spirit of liberty — real nullification — Indeed the mass — the convention stood on as good ground as I could require as an abolitionist of a political convention — They did not do one thing which I desired and that was to condemn the slanders of new organization upon the old society — The reason they did not do this was because they were not generally conversant with the facts in the case and therefore could not do it —

But I must forbear — My frame requires rest for the morrow — May we come to a clear understanding of each other and of our duty towards the slave — This is my object in visiting N.E. — By Friday or Saturday next, I will, Providence permitting be with you —

Yours truly

Abby Kelley

U.S. EXPRESS MAIL
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Maria W. Chapman
Boston
Mass.

Excuse my not paying postage — The mail is closed and I am obliged to throw this into the car mail —

Abby Kelley
"Where we are"
Sept 1843

No 9

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